Upgrading TV Stations

813. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many TV transmissions are poor and some of these stations require upgrading;

(b) whether Government have assured to upgrade certain TV stations; and

(c) if so, what is the progress in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) All the 531 TV transmitting centres of varying radiating powers in the country are reported to be functioning satisfactorily and are providing TV service within their respective coverage areas subject to local terrain conditions. Out of these transmitting Centres, the radiating power of 16 transmitters is being augmented at present for the purpose of extension of TV service. Major equipment for 13 such stations have been procured. As per present indications, 8 nos. of such transmitters are expected to be upgraded by March, 1993. Upgradation of the remaining 8 stations depends on completion of construction of buildings/towers and supply of equipment. It is also envisaged to augment the existing radiating powers of 33 transmitters in a phased manner depending upon the availability of adequate resources for the purpose and inter-se priorities.

T. V. Station at Vijayawada

814. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMA- ources for the purpose and *inter-se* pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foundation stone was laid for construction of T. V. studio at Vijayawada more than two years back;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting construction work as yet; and

(c) what steps have been taken to take up the same and to complete it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action was held up pending completion of a review of the schemes for expansion of TV studio facilities in the country.

(c) Land has already been acquired at Vijayawada and orders for the supply of equipment involving long delivery schedules placed on the manufacturers.

Privatisation of the Metro Channel on Doordarshan

815. SHRMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state what decision has been taken by Government about the proposal for privatisation of the metro channel on Doordarshan to encourage private entrepreneurs in to introduce healthy competition in the area of electronic media?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): The Government has decided to offer time slots to private producers on the four metro channels of Doordarshan.

Demand for total decontrol of Newsprint

816. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

Indian Newspapers Society has reiterated its demand for total decontrol of newsprint;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Newspaper Society has demanded total decontrol of newsprint as a part of Government's move to liberalise the economy.

(c) The Government's reaction to such issues is consistent with its policy of safeguarding the interest of the indigenous newsprint manufacturers and also the healthy growth of the Press, particularly small and medium newspapers.

New Satellite TV Channel

817. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new satellite TV channel is proposed to be started with the help of Asian Television Network;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed Satellite TV channel; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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818. श्री **मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा 1989–90, 1990–91 और 1991–92 के दौरान विज्ञापन और दृश्य प्रचार निदेशालय की विज्ञापनों के लिए कितनी धनराशि प्रदान की गई ;

(ख) इन वर्षों के दौरान जारी किए गए विज्ञापनों का मूल्य कितना था और उपर्युक्त वर्षों के प्रत्येक वर्ष के अंत में सरकार को कितनी धनराशि वापस की गई ; और

(ग) धनराशि सरकार को वापस किए जाने और उसे विज्ञापनों पर खर्च न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास) : (क) से (ग) इन तीन वर्षों के दौरान विज्ञापनों के बजट प्रावधान इन पर किया गया वास्तविक खर्च और विज्ञापन और दृश्य प्रचार निदेशालय द्वारा अभ्यर्पित राशि का ब्यौरा इस प्रकार है :—

वर्ष	सरकार द्वारा प्रदान की गई राशि	वास्तविक व्यय	अभ्यर्पित राशि
1989–90	1064.50 लाख रु०	1064.50 लाख रु०	शून्य
1990–91	2085.22 लाख रु०	2085.22 लाख रु०	शून्य
1991–92	1998.00 लाख रु०	1422.56 लाख रु०	575.40 लाख रु०